

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAB-01 SAM-01 NIC-01 OMB-01 AID-05 /075 W

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R 170545Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5171

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 0650

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YE, YS

SUBJECT: CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

REF: SANAA 583

1. DURING MARCH 15 CALL, FORMIN ASNAG INFORMED ME THAT
ACCORDING TO RECENT INFORMATION FROM ADEN, PDRY
PRESIDENT SALIM RUBAYYI ALI HAS OBTAINED THE BACKING OF
THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE DELEGATES TO THE NATIONAL
FRONT'S SIXTH PARTY CONGRESS. ASNAG ADDED THAT AT PRESENT
IT APPEARS THE CONGRESS WILL BE HELD TOWARDS THE END OF
MARCH RATHER THAN EARLIER IN THE MONTH AS HAD BEEN
ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED. ASNAG OPINED THAT PRESIDENT
ALI NOW SEEMS TO BE IN A STRONGER POSITION THAN NF
SECRETARY GENERAL ABD AL-FATH ISMAIL. HE WAS SKEPTICAL,
HOWEVER, THAT PDRY'S BASIC MARXIST POLICIES WILL CHANGE.
ON THE CONTRARY HE BELIEVES THAT PRESIDENT ALI IS
PURSUING A SEEMINGLY MODERATE POLICY OF CONCILIATION WITH
THE SAUDIS AND OTHER OIL RICH ARAB STATES ONLY IN ORDER
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BGTO OBTAIN MUCH-NEEDED FINANCIAL ASSISTJNCE, WHILE

STILL ADHERING TO MARXIST IDEOLOGY AS WELL AS TO CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS. ASNAG ALSO THOUGHT THAT ALI WILL NOT BREAK WITH ISMAIL BECAUSE ALI NEEDS ISMAIL WHO HAS MUCH SUPPORT FROM THE YDRY MILITIA.

2. ASNAG CONTINUED THAT BEHIND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS HE SEES STRONG SOVIET INFLUENCE WHICH IS ADVISING PRESIDENT ALI TO PURSUE THIS CONCILIATORY POLICY IN ORDER THAT THE SOVIETS MAY BE RELIEVED TO SOME EXTENT OF THE FINANCIAL BURDEN OF SUPPORTING ADEN.

3. ASNAG NOTED THAT DESPITE THE SEEMING STRENGTHENING OF THE "MODERATE" FORCES IN PDRY, SABOTAGE INCIDENTS HAVE INCREASED IN THE SOUTHERN REGIONS OF YEMEN DURING THE LAST MONTH. ASNAG ASSERTED THAT THESE ARE THE RESULT OF PDRY INSTIGATION. (SEE REFTEL)

4. COMMENT: ASNAG HAS LONG BEEN CONVINCED THAT THE PDRY REGIME IS ONLY MAKING TACTICAL MOVES IN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE MODERATE ARAB STATES WHILE KEEPING ITS LONG-TERM IDEOLOGICAL GOALS CLEARLY IN MIND.
SCOTES

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